

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A carrier comprising carrier particles, said particles comprising a magnetic core and a resin layer covering said core, wherein said carrier particles have a weight average particle diameter  $D_w$  which is 22-32  $\mu\text{m}$  and a number average particle diameter  $D_p$  which meets with the following condition:

$$1 < D_w/D_p < 1.20,$$

and

(1) wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than 20  $\mu\text{m}$  is no more than 7wt% of the total weight of said particles,

(2) wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than 36  $\mu\text{m}$  is 90-100wt% of the total weight of said particles, and

(3) wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than 44  $\mu\text{m}$  is 98-100wt% of the total weight of said particles.

Claim 2 (Original): The carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said particles have a weight average particle diameter  $D_w$  which is 22-30  $\mu\text{m}$ , and wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than 20  $\mu\text{m}$  is no more than 5wt%.

Claim 3 (Original): The carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than 20  $\mu\text{m}$  is no more than 3wt%.

Claim 4 (Original): The carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said carrier particles provide a magnetic moment of from 70 to 150emu/g in an applied magnetic field at 1 KOe.

Claim 5 (Original): The carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said carrier particles have a core of MnMgSr ferrite material.

Claim 6 (Original): The carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said carrier particles have a core of Mn ferrite material.

Claim 7 (Original): The carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said carrier particles have a core of a magnetite material.

Claim 8 (Original): The carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the bulk density of the magnetic core is 2.35 to 2.50g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Claim 9 (Original): The carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the specific electro-resistance denoted by (log R,  $\Omega$ cm) of the carrier is 12.0 to 14.0.

Claim 10 (Original): The carrier as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a resistance of an inner resin layer is more than that of a surface resin layer.

Claim 11 (Original): A carrier as claimed in claim 10, wherein said resin layer comprises a silicone resin containing aminosilane coupling agent.

Claim 12 (Original): An electrophotographic developer comprising toner and a carrier according to claim 1.

Claim 13 (Original): An electrophotographic developer as claimed in claim 12, wherein toner charge to mass ratio, when used in such an amount as to provide a covering ratio of 50%, is 15 to  $35\mu\text{c/g}$ .

Claim 14 (Original): An electrophotographic developer as claimed in claim 12, wherein said toner particles have a weight average particle diameter of from 3.0 to  $5.0\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 15 (Original): A method for preparing a carrier for an electrophotographic developer, said carrier comprising carrier particles, each carrier particle comprising a magnetic core and a resin layer on the surface of said magnetic core; said method comprising:

(i) classifying a magnetic material of finely pulverized particles, thereby obtaining magnetic core particles having a weight average particle diameter  $D_w$  which is 22-  $32\mu\text{m}$  and

wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than  $20\mu\text{m}$  is no more than 7wt% of the total weight of said particles,

wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than  $36\mu\text{m}$  is less than 90wt% of the total weight of said particles,

wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than  $44\mu\text{m}$  is less than 98wt% of the total weight of said particles, and

(ii) providing a resinous film onto the magnetic core particles.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing a carrier for an electrophotographic developer, said carrier comprising carrier particles, each carrier particle comprising a magnetic core and a resin layer on the surface of said magnetic core ; said method comprising:

providing a resinous film onto the magnetic core particles,

classifying a magnetic core particles of finely pulverized particles, thereby obtaining magnetic core particles having a weight average particle diameter  $D_w$  which is 22- ~~3230~~ 32  $\mu\text{m}$  and a number average particle diameter  $D_p$  which meets with the following condition:

$$1 < D_w/D_p < 1.20,$$

wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than 20  $\mu\text{m}$  is no more than 7wt% of the total weight of said particles,

wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than 36  $\mu\text{m}$  is less than 90wt% of the total weight of said particles,

wherein the amount of said carrier particles having a particle diameter of less than 44  $\mu\text{m}$  is less than 98wt% of the total weight of said particles

Claim 17 (Original): A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein classifying is accomplished by a vibration sieve equipped with an ultrasonic wave-generator.

Claim 18 (Original): A method as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising classifying the particles having a resinous film thereon with a vibration sieve equipped with an ultrasonic wave-generator.

Claim 19 (Original): A method as claimed in Claim 17 , wherein the vibration sieve is equipped with an ultrasonic wave-generator and a resonator ring to transfer ultrasonic waves generated by the ultrasonic wave-generator to the vibration sieve.

Claim 20 (Original): A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the vibration sieve is equipped with an ultrasonic wave-generator and a resonator ring to transfer ultrasonic waves generated by the ultrasonic wave-generator to the vibration sieve.

Claim 21 (Original): An image forming method, comprising developing an image with the developer of Claim 12.

Claim 22 (Original): A process cartridge which is freely attachable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus and detachable therefrom, wherein said process cartridge comprises dry toner and a carrier according to claim 1.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 16 is currently amended.

Claim 16 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to correct an obvious error. The amendment to claim 16 is supported by the specification at page 4, line 28, as originally filed.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues have been presented. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is requested.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-22 will be pending in the present application.